AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A character string data processing method for passing a first character string from a first object, through an interface object running under control of a computer operating system, to a second object, when an application program is run, the method comprising:

casting, in the interface object, the first character string ~~data~~ declared as a first data type as a basic string data type, whereby ~~a~~ the number of characters including null data in the first character string ~~data~~ is countable irrespective of ~~a~~ the declared type of the first character string ~~data of the first object~~, detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string ~~data as a~~by analyzing its basic string data type representation, and converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to a second character string ~~data~~ that can be passed by the operating system to the second object, without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format; and

processing, in the second object, the ~~first~~ second character string, ~~data~~ which is declared as the first data type, as a basic string data type, irrespective of the declared type of the ~~first~~ second character string ~~data~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic string data ~~is~~ type representation of the first character string ~~data containing~~contains string length information.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein

the application program can process a character string ~~data~~ containing null data;

the first object is the application program or a peripheral device class control object; and

the second object is a peripheral device class control object or a peripheral device service object.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the character string ~~data~~ is bar code data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the application program is a POS application program.

6. (Currently Amended) A character string data processing system comprising a first object that is a client object, a second object that is a server object with respect to the first object, and an interface object for passing a first character string from the first object, through the interface object, to the second object running an application program, wherein:

the interface object comprises means for casting the first character string ~~data~~ declared as a first data type as a basic string data type, whereby the number of characters including null data in the first character string ~~data~~ is countable irrespective of ~~a~~ the declared type of the first character string ~~data of the first object~~, means for detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string ~~as a~~ by analyzing its basic string data type representation, and means for converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to a second character string ~~data~~ that can be passed by the operating system to the second object, without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format; and

the second object comprises means for processing the ~~first~~ second character string, ~~data~~ which is declared as the first data type, as a basic string data type, irrespective of the declared type of the ~~first~~ second character string ~~data~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the basic string data ~~is~~ type representation of the first string ~~data containing~~ contains string length information.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein

the application program can process a character string ~~data~~ containing null data;

the first object is the application program or a peripheral device class control object; and

the second object is a peripheral device class control object or a peripheral device service object.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the character string ~~data~~ is bar code data.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the application program is a POS application program.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying an object program that is a client object when an application program is run, the object program comprising:

instructions for passing first character string ~~data~~ to a server object relative to the client object by invoking an interface object capable of passing the first character string ~~data~~ through an operating system to the server object; and

wherein the passing instruction has an executable command for running a process invoking the interface object to cast the first character string ~~data~~declared as a first data type as a basic string data type, whereby the number of characters including null data in the first character string ~~data~~ is countable irrespective of ~~an~~ the object-declared type of the first character string ~~data~~, the passing instruction further having instructions for detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string ~~as a~~by analyzing its basic string data type representation, and converting the effective number of characters in the first character string to a second character string ~~data~~ that can be passed by the operating system to the server object, without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the object program is an application program capable of processing a character string ~~data~~ containing null data, or a peripheral device class control object.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first character string ~~data~~ is bar code data, and the application program is a POS application program.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying an object program that is a server object when ~~running~~ an application program is run, the object program comprising:

an executable command for ~~processing~~ casting a first character string, ~~data~~ passed to the server object from a client object thereof through an interface object running on an operating system, declared as a first data type, as a basic string data type, whereby the number of characters including null data in a middle portion of the first character string ~~data~~ is countable irrespective of an object-declared type of the first character string ~~data~~, and processing the effective number of characters in the first character string determined from an analysis of its basic string data type representation.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the object program is a peripheral device class control object, or a peripheral device service object.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the first character string ~~data~~ is bar code data, and the application program is a POS application program.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying an interface object program for passing a first character string through a computer operating system from a client or first object to a server or second object when an application program is run, the interface object program comprising:

an executable command for casting the first character string ~~data~~ declared as a first data type as a basic string data type, whereby ~~a~~ the number of characters including null data in the first character string ~~data~~ is countable irrespective of ~~a~~ the declared type of the first character string ~~data~~ of the first object, detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string ~~as a~~ by analyzing its basic string data type representation, and converting the

effective number of characters in the first character string to a second character string ~~data~~ that can be passed by the operating system to the second object, without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a special format.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the basic string data ~~is~~ type representation of the first character string ~~data containing~~contains string length information.